THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
May 7, 2023 10:00 a.m.
Fifth Sunday of Easter

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE *Children of the Heavenly Father* (Swedish Folk Tune) arr. R. Lau

INTROIT *As We Are Gathered* J. Daniels

CALL TO WORSHIP

By the waters of baptism, we are marked for God's service in the world;
We dedicate ourselves to serving God and all God's people.
When we claim this faith for ourselves, God's Holy Spirit fills us and walks with us on this great journey of life.
Our public witness bears testimony to the Spirit's inspiration within our hearts.
As we gather at the table of salvation, we are united with all God's children everywhere;
And we covenant to walk together in the unity that is Jesus Christ, brother and savior to us all. Amen.

*HYMN *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* 306

Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign; with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

Child of love, our love's expression, love's creation, loved indeed! Fresh from God, refresh our spirits, into joy and laughter lead.

Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came. Back to God we humbly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.

Child of God you loving Parent, learn to know whose child you are. Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than all.

INVOCATION Michele Procko, Deacon

Fountain of life and light, when we come to you, thirsty, we know that here we are in the right place. Hearing your Word and coming to your Table bring us to the personal refreshment from the depths of the world's most profound well-spring. God of Jesus Christ, God of the church, God of Creation, who will satisfy the deep needs of all who trust you, bless those who hunger and thirst, that we might be satisfied. In

Christ Jesus let us too be open and welcoming to all God's people for the sake of the Savior who blesses and welcomes us, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 15

O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill? Whoever walks blamelessly, and does what is right, and speaks the truth from the heart; who does not slander with the tongue, and does no ill to a friend, nor takes up a reproach against a neighbor. In whose eyes the wicked are dishonored, but who honors those who honor the LORD; who stands by their word even when it is to one's disadvantage; who does not lend money at interest, and defends the rights of the innocent. Whoever does these things shall never be brought low.

ANTHEM *Come Away* M. Hayes

Arise my love, my fair one, and come away.
Arise my love, so beautiful, and come away.
For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone,
The flowers appear on the earth, the time for singing has come! Ah!

The voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.
The fig trees are bursting with buds and the promise of fruit.
The grapevines are fragrant with blossoms. How delicious they smell!
Spring is here and my heart is filled with love!

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm.
For love is as strong as death and passion fierce as the grave.
Many waters cannot quench love. All the world's riches cannot buy love.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON I Corinthians 10.15-17; 12.12-13

THE SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM - *Anthony Michael Humble - June 2, 2020*

Words of Welcome / Invitation to Family / Baptismal Questions

*Congregational Affirmation (Please stand as you are able)

We receive Anthony as a new person in Christ. We offer our understanding and support as he explores life. We enfold him in our love, seeking together to grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all people. We join with his family in telling the gospel in our midst, so that he may live with us for Christ, showing Jesus' love for all people. Amen.

Baptism

Unison Prayer

O Lord, giver of life and power, you have promised not only to be our God, but also the God of our children. Sanctify Anthony with your spirit that this moment might be the sign and seal of new life in Christ. Amen.

Presentation

SERMON *"The Sacred Ordinary"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."
(I Corinthians 12.13)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *A Communion Invitation* H. Sorenson

In this holy moment, in this sacred place,
Silence every worldly thought, contemplate the gift of grace.
The bread of life is broken, the wine of mercy poured.
Come and see the goodness, the goodness of the Lord.

Walk the path of shadows, take the road of tears,
Climb the hill of sorrows, to Calvary draw near.
See the Savior weeping, wounded by our sin.
Kneel and gather mercy, then rise to live again.

Kyrie Eleison.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow/Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God for all that love has done/Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER *("trespasses")*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

POEM *H. Baptism (II)* George Herbert (1593-1633)

*HYMN *Beneath the Forms of Outward Rite* 326

Beneath the forms of outward rite thy supper, Lord, is spread in ev'ry quiet upper room where hungry souls are fed.

The bread is always consecrate which we divide with friends; and ev'ry act of charity repeats thy feast again.

The blessed cup is only passed true memory of thee, when life anew pours its wine with rich sufficiency.

O Savior, through these symbols shard, thine own dear self impart, that in our daily life may flame the passion of thy heart.

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Go Now in Peace* D. Besig

LOOKING AHEAD

May 7	5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen	May 10	6:00 pm	Scouts – Bear Den
May 8	5:15 pm	Scouts – Lions & Tigers	May 12	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace**
	6:30 pm	Irish Dance Group			
May 9	6:30 pm	Scouts – Arrows of Light	May 14	**10:00 am**	**Worship**
				5:00 pm	Soup Kitchen
	7:00 pm	Chester Garden Club			

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at the United Church of Chester, an Open and Affirming Church and a member of the United Church of Christ. **The United Church of Chester is centered in Christ's love, embracing, nurturing, serving all, and committed to justice and peace**.

The Deacon for May is **Michele Procko.** Our Greeter for today is **Daphne Stitt.** Flowers on the altar were provided by **Sue Germini-Humble**. Coffee hour is being hosted by

We ask God's blessing on **Anthony Michael Humble** and his mother **Kayla Chasse** on the occasion of his baptism.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday-Friday 8:30am-12:30pm, other times by appt.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday-Friday 9am-1pm.

"Our children are our only hope for the future, but we are their only hope for their present and their future." Zig Ziglar